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**BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY, AND INNOVATION
LOCAL, FAITH, AND TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS HUB**

Locally Led Development Initiatives



AUGUST 2021

CHAMPIONING LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT: BIGBOUY CHIKWAVARARA



PHOTO CREDIT: BIGBOUY CHIKWAVARARA
BIGBOUY CHIKWAVARARA, PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST AND COORDINATOR
FOR THE LOCAL WORKS ZIMBABWE YOUTH PROGRAM, USAID/ZIMBABWE

Decades of economic and political shocks in Zimbabwe have ramifications for the entire population, but most affected are the country's sizable youth population. Increasing unemployment, food insecurity, and poverty all pose a major challenge to the young people who constitute a majority of the country's population.

But, as Bigbouy "Biggie" Chikwavarara, a Project Management Specialist with USAID/Zimbabwe and the Coordinator for the Local Works Zimbabwe Youth Program notes: "What is most concerning though is the limited youth participation in the country's economic, civic and governance processes beyond elections. This suggests economic and social exclusion of youth; and there is evidence of hopelessness."

Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Zimbabwe is looking to address this crisis by putting local youth in the driver's seat, ensuring they have the ability to define and articulate their own challenges, and to identify and pursue innovative interventions. As Biggie puts it: "It is for youth, by youth, and with youth!"

Currently, the Mission is looking to engage young people in a number of ways:

- Working with young people, USAID/Zimbabwe co-created a "Collaborative Action Network." With Local Works' support, this youth-led network will engage the private sector and other stakeholders in order to build consensus amongst members on priority development issues and proposed solutions.
- The Mission is also conducting several assessments -- with youth driving the process -- to get a better sense of the economic situation, including the role that the informal economy and private sector play.
- And moving forward, a Youth Advisory Board will directly inform the Mission in the design and implementation of the Local Works Zimbabwe Youth Program.



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“ USAID will support young Zimbabweans, along with other local actors – communities, youth networks, organizations, and private sector to set their own development agenda, develop solutions, and ultimately, make those solutions a reality. ”

■ Bigbouy Chikwavarara

#YouthsInDrivingSeat



PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/ZIMBABWE
BIGBOUY CHIKWAVARARA, A YOUNG PERSON, AND A COLLEAGUE IN A DISCUSSION

“My experience working with youth in Zimbabwe over the past decade, seeing their motivations, passion and innovation and what others are doing in society, I fully recognize and value the capacity youth demonstrate to change their lives and change Zimbabwe at large,” Biggie shared. “This conviction has inspired USAID/Zimbabwe to work with youth differently, and to shift from our traditional relationship with aid recipients.”

“Locally led development is no longer the future, it is the present and now. We have seen it with the COVID-19 global pandemic, we have also seen what sustainability looks like and feels like when local ownership is front and center of development work,” he added.

“So true locally led development requires USAID staff to shift their traditional roles and let local actors define and lead their own development. Development practitioners need to believe in the existing capacities of local actors and be ready to strengthen such capacity if need be. It means establishing a shared mindset, equal partnerships, balancing power dynamics and being prepared to listen to local actors and sometimes take the back seat. This is not easy; it requires unlearning and relearning development work.”

USAID/Zimbabwe is part of the [Local Works](#) program. The [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub](#) recognizes individuals from the USAID Local Works Missions for their exemplary work in advancing locally led development.



KENYA: ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

PHOTO CREDIT: GLOBAL COMMUNITIES
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PARTICIPATING IN A YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

In Kenya, young entrepreneurs across Nairobi County are eager to transform and grow their cooperatives into profitable businesses. Yet many youth cooperatives are hindered by a lack of access to key resources like funding, markets, business intelligence, and technical assistance. That's why the [Cooperative Development Program](#) and [Global Communities](#) are working together to help youth cooperatives to scale their businesses. Through “Youth Roundtables,” the program provides opportunities for young entrepreneurs to network, collectively examine the challenges they face, and meet and work with business experts who can help them find practical solutions. Recent convenings have focused on marketing, access to capital, taxes, business and start-up management, digitization, and pricing and costing. Together, the entrepreneurs were able to discuss these challenges and chart a path forward.

Through these convenings, business experts and young entrepreneurs are able to codesign solutions tailored to the unique situation, interests, and skills of each cooperative.



Hello!

it's tekla's and mari's presentations,
and we are doing a report on

(ENGLISH FOR THE
FUTURE ONLINE CAMP

GEORGIA: SUPPORTING SCHOOLS, SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS/GEORGIA
ONE OF THE STUDENT PROJECTS FROM THE INTERACTIVE ONLINE ENGLISH "CAMP"

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted education around the world, with instructional time at schools and extracurricular activities being especially impacted. To assist partner schools and communities, [Peace Corps/Georgia](#), with support from USAID's [Small Project Assistance \(SPA\) Program](#), designed both a model curriculum and an entirely online multimedia "camp" to support students' English skills.

"English for the Future" included interactive online learning where more than 25 students designed characters, created storybooks, made videos, and created personal "portfolios" with a range of online tools. One of the students shared: "The camp helped us train our brain, meet new people, practice English and gain new technological skills that will be very useful in the future."

The camp materials and the curriculum are also supporting teachers and schools in their work, enabling them to quickly and easily set up interactive camps and extracurricular activities for their students, and ensuring that the gaps in essential schooling due to the pandemic are reduced through effective, informal educational interventions.



GUINEA: YOUTH LEAD

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/GUINEA
THE FIRST CONVENING OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE HAD A CHANCE TO CONVENE AND NETWORK

In Guinea, youth are driving the future of development - particularly in rural areas. USAID/Guinea convened the first meeting of a Youth Advisory Committee, which will inform the Mission's [Local Works](#) programming. Through this ongoing forum, young people will have the opportunity to contribute their knowledge of local needs and capacities directly to USAID, and to harness their entrepreneurial skill set to improve lives and livelihoods in rural Guinea. The initial convening provided a networking opportunity that led to new professional and personal connections among these rural entrepreneurs.

Moving forward, the Youth Advisory Committee will drive USAID programming and advance youth entrepreneurship in Guinea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



#WatchOurImpact: Last month, USAID's [YouthLead.org](https://www.youthlead.org) coordinated a digital storytelling campaign and invited young people from around the world to highlight how they are creating change in their communities. [Watch the videos.](#)



Vision for Health System Strengthening: USAID just released the new Vision 2030, which outlines the path forward for health programming. The updated Vision recognizes that locally led, integrated, systems-based approaches for strengthening health systems are now more critical than ever due to COVID-19 and other pandemics. [Check it out.](#)

Youth in Development Policy: Currently, USAID is the [Youth in Development Policy](#), a timely and necessary policy that addresses the reality that more than half of the world's global population is under 30. The updated policy will be released later this year, and includes a focus on local systems strengthening for youth programming. [Stay tuned.](#)



August 18 - Local Means Local - Strengthening Community-led Development (Spanish): [The Movement for Community-led Development](#) is organizing a special launch in Spanish of its collaboratively developed Community-Led Development (CLD) [Assessment Tool](#), which enables organizations and donors to assess how community-led their programs are and to undertake course corrections. The event will also share findings from 170+ programs in 65 countries to unpack “community-led development” in action. [Register for the event.](#)



We Bake Happiness: With the ongoing economic and political crisis in Venezuela, many people have been forced to flee to neighboring countries. See how USAID's partnership with the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) is supporting Venezuelans and locals alike. [Check it out.](#)

USAID to Push Localization, Counter China's Influence, Power Says: In case you missed it, this Devex article highlights key takeaways from Administrator Power's budget hearings on the Hill last month, including an emphasis on the role of local partners in USAID's work. [Check it out.](#)

Water a Potential New Focus of US/Vatican Partnerships, Biden Official Says: In this interview with Crux, LFT Director Adam Phillips highlights the importance of USAID's work with new and non-traditional partners on a range of issues, including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). [Check it out.](#)

Local Humanitarian Action During Covid-19: The Humanitarian Policy Group study aimed to identify what changes towards a more local aid model were happening in the context of Covid-19 and, where change was not happening, why this was the case. [Check it out.](#)



Program Assistant - Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships (LFT) Hub: The [LFT Hub](#) is hiring a Program Assistant to support the initiatives and programs across the Hub. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Program Assistant - Locally Led Development Initiatives (LLDI): Within the LFT Hub, LLDI is hiring a Program Assistant to support locally led development programming. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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